

February 2014

St. Luke's-by-the-Sea

Vicar's Letter

Waldport, Oregon 541-563-4812



ST. LUKE'S BY-THE-SEA

VICAR

SUSAN
CHURCH

DEACON

SENITILA
MCKINLEY

BISHOP

MICHAEL
HANLEY

PRESIDING BISHOP

KATHARINE
JEFFERTS-
SCHORI

MINISTERS

ALL THE
PEOPLE OF
ST. LUKE'S

Beloved of Jesus,

We continue in the season of Epiphany – a season when we remember all of the ways that Jesus was made manifest to the world. It is also a time when we are invited to look at how and why we are called to follow in that ministry. I was reading a meditation by Richard Rohr called “A Universal Contagion”. He wrote, *“We are all initially created in the image of God, and Jesus is always re-creating and restoring that image in his public ministry.... We Christians believe that we cannot know the mind of God until we see what God was doing in, through, and with Jesus. Salvation is contagious, and passes around in just that way. Transformed people, like Jesus, naturally transform people.”*

*“The real meaning of apostolic succession is probably not bishops laying their hands on the next generation of priests, but **Christians rubbing off on one another!** ... We clergy find it much easier to magically transform bread than to transform people, situations, and the suffering of our world. Jesus’ transformations were immediately verifiable and visible through his nonstop ministry of healing and exorcism. The real message here is not a mere medical cure (although I have seen them!), or whether Jesus could do such a thing, but that **(1) God cares about human pain, (2) God cares about it in this world now, (3) God’s action actually changes people in ways that we can see, and (4) such people, and such people alone, are equipped to pass on the real message.**”*

All too often Christians, rather than passing on the real message of Jesus transforming work of salvation, they rub people the wrong way by proclaiming a Jesus that you would be hard pressed to find in the Gospel. I invite you to know the story of Jesus. Read the Gospel, ask questions, engage the story, pray the story, and learn the story from one another. Be a transformer. Know Jesus - not just know about, but know Jesus; introduce your friends to Jesus; have conversations with Jesus (prayer); speak up about the Jesus of love you know; share about Jesus who travels with you in suffering and doubt as well as in joy. And as the Epiphany Blessing says, “May Christ the Son of God be manifest in you that your lives may be a light to the world”!

Blessings,

Susan

ST. LUKE'S

2014
BISHOP'S
ADVISORY
COMMITTEELARRY
HANKSTIFFANY
MINERJEANNE
ST. JOHNBARBARA
SMITH-HUGGINSELIZABETH
WALTERS-
BROWNCURT
WERNER

St. Luke's People

David Edgar Fogg celebrated his first birthday in style—and with lots of yummy cake and birthday presents!



Emily Cunningham is recovering from a recent fall at home. Please keep her in your prayers.

Anne Smith has also been dealing with more painful back problems. We're sending her lots of love and prayers for a full recovery.

Fawn & Kempton Hewitt write: "Greetings from Yuma! I won't belabor the fact that it's going to be 75 and sunny today (yawn; like every day!). We are enjoying ourselves and keeping busier than we expected with fitness workouts, doing things with our friends, going to movies, on hikes, shopping, etc. Also, tonight Kempton is teaching the second of his four-week series for the Methodists and Lutherans on Jesus in the Gospels, with a good crowd (40+) last time."

Ray and Jackie are also in the California desert in their little teardrop trailer and a 10x10 market canopy which is their kitchen, dining room, closet and office. Ray's recovering from cellulitis in his leg, then they are looking forward to more fun in the sun. They recently had lunch with **Hank Moore** in Carmel at Le St. Tropez where they met **Jeanne's** son, the chef/owner.

Soup & St. John

We will again be joining with the Yachats Presbyterian Church to read through the entire Gospel of John on March 4. We start with a Soup Supper at 5:30. This year they will cook the soup and we will bring salads, bread and cookies.

If you are interested in reading a part or if you are able to supply a salad, bread or cookies, please let **Susan+** know. It is a marvelous way to prepare for hearing the Gospel of John read during this year. It is also a marvelous way to gather with our sisters and brothers in Christ and our Yachats Food Pantry Partners!

For the Vertically Challenged

Carol Straus has generously donated a folding footstool to help those who have trouble pouring water into the coffee maker and reaching those tall shelves. It fits nicely between the refrigerator and the counter. Thank you, Carol.

A Special Plea

Some of us need quiet time to settle in and open our hearts before the service. Although the weekly bulletin begins with a note suggesting quiet time before the service—and that we save our conversation for later—we're becoming more social before the service.

We are so fortunate to have **Eric and Mary Lee**, two extremely talented and dedicated professional musicians. They plan with **Susan+** and practice for our services. Many times we talk over their weekly "Five Minute Meditation Concert" and lose an opportunity to absorb the whole worship experience.

Let's save our socializing for coffee hour—one of the best parts of St. Luke's—and fully experience the beauty of their introductory music.

BAC Update

Highlights from the January meeting:

Liturgy received excellent feedback from the Epiphany service of poems and hymns. Planning underway for reading the entire Gospel of John with Yachats Presbyterian Church in early March.

Columbarium has been ordered and the builder is working on it. It's possible the Bishop will be here for a blessing after it's installed.

Outreach Committee has been asked to make recommendations for the distribution of \$5000 from investment income.

Christmas Bazaar and Tea proceeds totaled \$1678, with 10% going to South Lincoln County Resources.

Belle Noche Dinner was scheduled for February, but was postponed to later in the year.

Facilities improvements include new locks that are working well; handicapped and visitor parking signs will be installed; and a highway cleanup will be scheduled in coming months.

Susan will be away at a conference from Jan. 28-30 learning "How to do Liturgy in the 21st Century."

Directory Update

On the credenza there's a copy of our current directory with revisions we know about. Please review your entry and note any changes that need to be made or mark "OK" so we know your entry has been reviewed. If you want a printed directory, please indicate that with a "Y" next to your entry. The directory will be printed after St. Stephen's annual meeting on February 9.

St. Luke's Annual Meeting

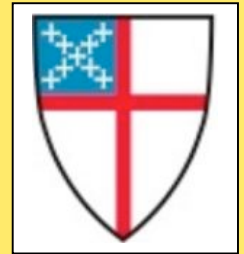
After a delicious coffee hour hosted by **Carol & Bunny**, Sr. Warden **Dutch** expressed appreciation to fellow BAC members and **Susan+** as he completed his third and final year in that office. He thanked everyone on the BAC for their hard work and described how he had grown in his personal and spiritual life during his service. **Dutch** also expressed great appreciation for Jr. Warden **Curt Werner's** quiet competence in keeping the building and grounds in excellent condition. **Ruth Werner** was thanked for her great leadership of the Stewardship effort.

Susan+ encouraged everyone to read the Annual Report to appreciate the amount of hard work and dedication that it takes to make this little church happen-and how many people are contributing.



Service Awards

Elizabeth Walters-Brown and Curt Werner were awarded Service Crosses for all the contributions they have made to the life of St. Luke's this year. **Tiffany Miner and Jeanne St.John** were elected to three-year terms on the BAC. **Brian Hanna and Elizabeth Walters-Brown** were elected Convention delegates, and **Dutch and Sherri Fortmeyer** were named as alternates.



Sunshine Committee

Please call the members listed below about any needs for cards.

Birthdays

Barbara Smith-Huggins
563-2878

Get Well

Karin Bigler
563-7642

Hospitalization

Allie Moran
563-5591

Moving

Kempton Hewitt
563-6649

Thinking of You

Fawn Hewitt
563-6649

Special Occasions

Bunny Wright
528-3271

Deaths & Memorial Gifts

Julie Pearce
563-4881

What's Happening at St. Luke's in February

February Celebrations

- 2/1 8:30-10 Saturday Breakfast at Presbyterian Church
- 2/2 10 AM First Sunday Men's Breakfast
- 2/9 2-4 PM Love is Love Valentine Party at OCCC
- 2/21 10:00 PM Deadline for March Newsletter

Birthdays

- 6 Jeanne St.John
- 18 Don Ashley
- 19 Bette Ashley
Jesse Treon
- 26 Fred Strauss

- 2/22 1:00 PM Memorial Service for Dr. Jim Leake
- 2/25 3:30 PM BAC Meeting at St. Luke's—Everyone welcome
6:15 PM Community Dinner following Eucharist
- 3/1 9:30-3 PM Pre-Lenten Retreat at St. Luke's
- 3/4 5:30 PM Reading the Gospel of St. John at Yachats Presbyterian Church

Anniversaries

- 2 Men's Breakfast
- 9 Anne Irving & Martha Wenger
- 16 Allie Moran & Karin Bigler
- 23 Virginia Morrison & Barbara Smith-Huggins



Regular Weekly Schedule

- | | | |
|----------|--------------------------------|---|
| Sunday | 9 AM | Holy Communion
Sunday School |
| Tuesday | 1:30 PM
5:30 PM | Tuesday Writer's Group
Holy Communion |
| Thursday | 7:30 AM
9:30 AM
11:30 AM | Holy Communion
God Talk at Green Salmon
Adult Scripture Study |
| Friday | 6:00 PM | AA Women's Meeting |

Brian's Musings

Last week I needed the calm and hope of St Luke's coffee hour.

Milica and I had lunched earlier in the week with our friend Jerry Fredricks who was in a subdued mood. She had just seen the movie "Osage County," Meryl Streep's latest turn as an ill, but still vibrantly virulent woman, giving her family some insights into their character (or lack of it) at the dinner table. I hadn't seen it, nor, I think, will I now, but Meryl has for me been in a class by herself ever since *Sophie's Choice*. If you saw her face when a brutal Nazi soldier forces her to choose which of her two daughters she will be allowed to keep, I guarantee you won't have forgotten it. I know that it is her vast talent that makes her self-righteous nun, her "fashion dragon," and her senile Maggie Thatcher, so hypnotic. I am fully aware that she can only control the roles she is offered up to a point, but I have come to realize, impeccable though her liberal credentials may be, and much as I love her, that one must guard one's peace of mind from some of her onslaughts.

Following on the heels of Jerry's ordeal in the movies, there was the grotesque horror of seeing dolphins trapped in a tank by Japanese hunters. My memory of these enchanting creatures putting on a private show for me as I sat on deck in Howe Sound, B.C made their futile attempts to escape unbearable to watch. The fact that my famously humorous uncle (and godfather) had died in a Japanese concentration camp in Borneo during the last weeks of WWII, didn't make the suffering of those other sweet comedians any easier to bear. Abuse and brutality seemed ever present.

But then, as I say, it was St Luke's to the rescue. There was God Talk with **Susan and Djohariah Toor**, and poetry and quiet sane photos of Oregon and animals mostly. Then there was Sunday and talking about Faith with **Karin Bigler Joan Wesley and Emily Cunningham**, followed by the news that fellow scribe and perceptive critic, **Doug Yunker**, was off to South America with his physician brother to dispense medical care to communities who had little access to it. Bravo, **Doug**, but don't stop writing.

But that wasn't all. Sanity fully returned when I had a lively chat with two of the liveliest women I know **Sherri Fortmeyer and Tiff Miner**. Some time ago they had chosen home schooling for their kids. Their non-conformity has now been taken up a notch, and the ladies are going to educate the kids according to criteria that they would choose. Our whole conversation was conducted with extravagant laughter, but it was obvious that **Madyson, Kimber, and RJ** are getting a thousand-yard start in the race of life. It reminded me that God is alive and that life is well worth living.



Brian Hanna

Joan & Herk's Blessing of a Civil Marriage



St. Luke's Cards

\$3 or 2 for \$5

They make
great little gifts!



As for the story - We met in 1998 in Newport. I was the Hospice Chaplain and Volunteer Coordinator and Herk was a Hospice volunteer. Before I met him, I was going through the volunteer applications and saw Herk's bold print with his request to work with WWII vets. At the bottom was an answer to a question that made me exclaim, "I have to meet this man!" Eventually we met and for five years had a lot of fun together.

Having said that I would never get married again, I gave in and we were married by the County Clerk at the courthouse during the Christmas holiday season in 2003. Our Best Man was to be Herk's brother Vern, but it snowed that day and he was unable to come from Scappose. Herk's friend, Lou Kittel, a celebrated WWII fighter pilot, filled in. My friend Jan, a Hospice nurse, was Maid of Honor. Soon after, Susan told us that we could have a Blessing of a Civil Marriage during a Sunday service. I'm not sure why we waited so long, but our 10th anniversary seemed like the perfect time. We really felt the love from the congregation and want to thank everyone. Thank you, Susan.

How Much Are You Loved?

You are loved beyond the power of language to describe, loved with the fierce passion of a mother's protection, loved with the tender innocence of a child's first crush, loved to the depth of understanding that elder couples share when the winter of their years seals their hearts in a lifetime of devotion. You are loved without condition, without regret, without doubt, loved in a serenity of assurance that poets only imagine and young minds dream. Come what may in the days before you, never forget this holy truth: you are beloved of God and will be to the far side of forever.

--Bishop Steven Charleston

Counting

by Linnea Harper
for my father,
James Lemuel Wortham Jr., 1911—1958

Long before I was nine I could count to five.
The pentacle on our table was a star I circled
nightly, folding linens and laying out forks and
spoons. Then one day with only a phone call
the wheel of our table went flat. Breakfast went
cold. My brother rocked back in his chair
and for once Mom didn't scold.

Times tables skipped through my brain. The extra
plate sat on the shelf. The geometry of mealtimes
grew dull as the distance between us expanded.
I read with one eye out the window checking the
weather, the wizened old elm tree weighted with snow—
anything that might suddenly break and fall,
leaving a closet of clothes without any limbs.

When I had a family, we stopped at four. No use
going on. Even now that they're gone you can still
find me circling, counting the silver, laying out plates
for a meal. If you come you must bring your own chair
and take it away when you go. I can no longer manage
subtraction. This will be supper— the taste of salt
and a few small stars on the side I haven't yet burned.

Thanks to Linnea for sharing with us this poignant memory of her father's premature passing during the service on January 26. May her heart-felt words remind us of the power of our presence, especially among our family and loved ones. Each moment is precious; each person is central to the life of the family.

You're Welcome!

St. Luke's expects guests—people of all faiths, races, nationalities, rich, poor, gay and straight, families and singles; young, old, and in-between. Hospitality is a very important part of our ministry, and we hope you will feel welcomed here.

Communication Team

Fawn Hewitt
Dawn Pavitt
Jeanne St. John
Ray Winward

Want to Make a Difference?

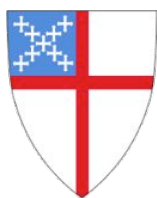
At St. Luke's there are many ways to contribute.

- ❖ Sign up to help with Literacy Center Breakfasts on 1st Saturdays
- ❖ Join the team of rotating Sunday School teachers
- ❖ Join Interfaith Community for Peace & Justice
- ❖ Bring food and personal need items for the Food Pantry
- ❖ Be a phone buddy for St. Luke's folks who can't get to church

***To volunteer, call and leave a message
on the church phone 563-4812***



St. Luke's-by-the-Sea
Christ is the center of this community
which welcomes all
to worship, to serve, and to share.



St. Luke's Church
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1353 Hwy 101 So.
Waldport, OR 97394

Phone:
541-563-4812

E-MAIL ADDRESSES:

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StLuke@peak.org

Newsletter:
jstjohn1@charter.net

Website:

ST. LUKE'S CHURCH
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